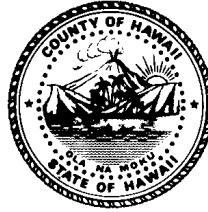


Harry Kim
Mayor



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February 24, 2020

Kenekoa/Senator Karl Rhoads, Luna Ho'omaluku/Chair
Kenekoa/Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Hope Luna Ho'omaluku/Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Committee Members:

RE: **SB 2519, SD1 Relating to Firearms**
SB 2635, SD1 Relating to Firearms Ammunition
SB 3054, SD1 Relating to Firearm Registration

The First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States provides for freedom of religion, speech, and press; and the right to peaceably assemble and to petition the government. Yet, as fundamental and sacrosanct as those values are to America, few if any would argue that those freedoms are not subject to reasonable restrictions (take the cliché of "yelling 'Fire' in a crowded theater").

Similarly, the Second Amendment guarantees the right to keep and bear arms. This right, too, must be subject to reasonable restrictions, or else we would each be able to have our own machine gun mounted on our mantelpiece or strapped over our shoulders.

So the question comes down to what is reasonable. That should be determined by a free people acting through their elected representatives, in this case our State Legislature. And given the times in which we live, and the carnage that we have witnessed both in our own state and across the country, I thank you for taking on the divisive but crucial task of deciding what reasonable restrictions might be.

You have three bills on today's agenda that would impinge on the right to keep and bear arms:

SB 2519, SD1 would prohibit large capacity magazines for all firearms. Such magazines are already restricted for pistols, and SB 2519, SD1 might be the most important bill before you today, given the data on mass shootings that is set forth in the preamble of the bill.

SB 2635, SD1 would regulate ammunition the same way firearms are regulated and require the licensing of sellers of ammunition. It would seem that this proposal would be particularly valuable in the case of a firearm that is lost or stolen, but also in tracing ammunition that is used in a crime.

S B3054, SD1 would require notification when a firearm is moved out-of-state. This would be of some value, though perhaps limited. On the other hand, the burden on a gun owner seems minimal.

Can any of the restrictions contained in the three bills be considered unreasonable? I have no doubt that some will say yes, but I would argue that all of these bills would make Hawai'i a safer place, without unduly restricting the right to keep and bear arms.

Again, thank you for taking on these issues.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry Kim". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Harry Kim
MAYOR